

# United Nations Nations Unies

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The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the representatives of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention) and has the honour to invite nominations with respect to two vacant seats in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (the Commission), for members of the Commission from the Group of African States and from the Group of Eastern European States, respectively, for a term ending on 15 June 2028. The period for the nomination of candidates will open on 18 July 2024 and will close on 18 October 2024 at midnight (EST time).

## *Vacancies in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf*

On 3 July 2024, the Chairperson of the Commission received a letter dated 28 June 2024 from Mr. Miloud Loukili, informing of his decision to resign from the Commission. Mr. Loukili was elected as a member of the Commission by the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties for a term of five years, from 16 June 2023 to 15 June 2028 ([SPLOS/32/15](#), para. 72).

It is recalled that pursuant to the *Arrangement for the allocation of seats on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf* approved by the nineteenth Meeting of States Parties on 26 June 2009, twenty out of the twenty-one seats are for members from the five regional groups, while the “remaining seat” shall be for members from among the Group of African States, the Group of Asian States and the Group of Western European and other States ([SPLOS/201, para. 2](#)). At the first election of the members of the Commission conducted on the basis of this arrangement, the twenty-second Meeting of States Parties followed a two-step approach ([SPLOS/251](#), paras. 86-87), with the first part of the election conducted on the basis of the confirmed regional allocation of seats and the second part of the election conducted exclusively for the “remaining seat” limited to those candidates from African States, Asia-Pacific States and Western European and other States who had not been elected in the first part.

Following this practice, at the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties, Mr. Loukili was elected in the first part of the election to a seat for members of the Commission from the Group of African States ([SPLOS/32/15](#), paras. 68-69 and 72). It is also recalled that a seat for members from the Group of Eastern European States remains vacant. The thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties decided that, if the Group of Eastern European States informed the President of the Meeting by 15 September 2024, that candidates had been identified, a call for nominations would be circulated by

the Secretary-General. A resumed session of the thirty-fourth Meeting would then be convened in order to conduct the by-election before the next Meeting of States Parties, subject to the approval of the General Assembly in light of relevant financial implications. If no candidates had been identified by that date, the Secretary-General would circulate a call for nominations with a view to conducting elections at the thirty-fifth Meeting of States Parties, to be held in 2025, only if the President received from the Group information about potential candidates no less than 14 weeks prior to the commencement of the thirty-fifth Meeting ([SPLOS/34/12](#) (forthcoming), para. 81).

Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention, “[e]lections of the members of the Commission shall be held at a meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters.” In addition, pursuant to rule 72 (*By-elections*) of the rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties ([SPLOS/2/Rev.5](#)), “[i]f the office of a member of the Commission becomes vacant, the Meeting of States Parties shall, in accordance with rule 71 [*Elections of the members of the Commission*], elect a member for the remainder of the predecessor’s term.”

Therefore, the thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties will need to be resumed with a view to holding a by-election to elect a member for the remainder of the term of Mr. Loukili, until 15 June 2028. Consequently, nominations for the seat for members of the Commission from the Group of Eastern European States that remains to be filled shall also be open as outlined in the section “Procedure of nomination”, below.

#### *Call for nominations*

It is recalled that pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the Convention, “[a]t least three months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties, inviting the submission of nominations, after appropriate regional consultations, within three months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated and shall submit it to all the States Parties.”

The Secretary-General hereby invites States Parties to the Convention to submit nominations with respect to two vacant seats in the Commission for members of the Commission from the Group of African States and from the Group of Eastern European States, respectively.

Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 1, of annex II to the Convention, members of the Commission “shall be experts in the field of geology, geophysics or hydrography, elected by States Parties to [the] Convention from among their nationals, having due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, who shall serve in their personal capacities”.

It is recalled that the Presidents of the thirty-first, thirty-second, thirty-third and thirty-fourth Meetings of States Parties emphasized the importance of ensuring full and effective participation and equal opportunities at all levels for women in institutions



relevant under the Convention has been emphasized in order to achieve gender equality, as recognized in Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (see [SPLOS/31/13](#), para. 15; [SPLOS/32/15](#), para. 73; [SPLOS/33/15](#), para. 104; [SPLOS/34/12](#) (forthcoming), para. 114). It is also recalled that the President of the thirty-second Meeting noted with regret that only one female candidate had been nominated for the elections of the Commission and elected ([SPLOS/32/15](#), para. 73).

States Parties are thus encouraged to give due regard to the desirability of addressing the gender imbalance in the Commission and to consider nominating female experts.

#### *Procedure of nomination*

The period for the nomination of candidates for election of members of the Commission will open on 18 July 2024 and will close on 18 October 2024 at midnight (EST time). Nominations made before 18 July 2024 or after 18 October 2024 will not be accepted.

Following the end of the nomination period, the Secretary-General will prepare, in alphabetical order, a list of all the persons thus nominated. The list will then be submitted to all the States Parties.

Nominations must indicate the name of the candidate and be accompanied by a statement of qualifications in the fields of geology, geophysics or hydrography.

The statement of qualifications should not exceed 400 words; however, the nominating State may additionally submit a more comprehensive *curriculum vitae* for publication on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs. Nominations must be addressed to:

The Secretary-General of the United Nations  
c/o Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea  
Office of Legal Affairs  
United Nations DC2-0450  
New York, NY 10017

The statement of qualifications of the candidate should also be transmitted electronically in MS Word format to: [doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org).

#### *Expenses of members while in performance of Commission duties – an undertaking by nominating States*

Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II to the Convention, “the State Party which submitted the nomination of a member of the Commission shall defray the expenses of that member while in performance of Commission duties”. In addition to defraying the costs associated with relevant travel and subsistence allowance, this may

also include appropriate life, medical and other forms of insurance covering the period of service.

The twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties “urged States parties that would nominate candidates for future elections of members of the Commission to formally undertake to support their candidates in accordance with article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II to the Convention. [...] Such an undertaking could be provided in the form of a note verbale that would accompany the nomination of a candidate to the Commission and would be brought to the attention of the Meeting of States Parties at the time of the election of the members of the Commission” ([SPLOS/303](#), paragraph 79).

Moreover, the twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties appealed to States “to ensure the full participation of the members of the Commission nominated by them in the work of the Commission, including by not scheduling conflicting activities for those members during the sessions of the Commission” ([SPLOS/303](#), paragraph 80).

In this connection, it is recalled that the Commission decided, starting in 2025 for the remainder of its current term of office, to meet for a total of 15 weeks per year by holding three sessions of five weeks each, including plenary meetings, with no two sessions being sequential and four of the 15 weeks remaining as plenary meetings, complemented with increased intersessional work (see [CLCS/60/2](#), para. 59 and [SPLOS/34/7](#), para. 19).

The Secretary-General avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the representatives of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea the assurances of his highest consideration.

